
Anglo-Indian Studies by S. M. Mitra

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How could one imagine this civil service to be overcrowded with Indians? Thus obviously there is but one thing to do—"Cut out" Indian recruits from the Indian civil service!

An Indian, however (I hope pertinently) asks this question—would it not be wiser for the English people for permanent friendship's sake, to trust the Indian to shape his own destiny (let it be under English supervision) and keep everything than to distrust him and lose all?

However, we may differ and we do so on almost every count, with the author in his various conclusions, there is no doubt that the book is an excellent study of the present situation in India. He shows very clearly where the administration fails to touch the people and gives a vivid description of the strained relations of the ruler and the ruled. His diagnosis is fairly correct from an Indian point of view but his prescription will hardly find an echo from any Indian heart.

Anglo-Indian Studies. By S. M. MITRA, author of *Indian Problems*, *Hindupore*, etc. New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1913. Pp. 505.

Both the government of Bengal and the Right Honorable Lord Curzon disowned the administrative measure known as the "Partition of Bengal" which took place during Lord Curzon's viceroyalty. Mr. (now Lord) Morley turned a deaf ear to the various supplications and petitions from Indian people of all classes without distinction of caste and creed, and put the partition aside as a "settled fact." Alleged sedition and bomb outrages were at their highest pitch. It was at this time that Mr. S. M. Mitra came as "Daniel to judgment." He supported Lord Morley's line of action though opposed by practically the whole of British India. He wrote a number of letters to the *Times*. Lord Curzon quoted passages from his book *Indian Problems* in a debate in the House of Lords. He came to prominence suddenly. The Indian public began to inquire, who is this Mr. Mitra?

Sir Valentine Chirol in his book *Indian Unrest* has stated that "in Hyderabad where the relations between Moslem and Hindu have hitherto been quite harmonious, a change is gradually making itself felt under the inspirations of a small group of Bengali Hindus, who have brought with them the Nationalist cry of 'Arya for the Aryan.'"

Mr. Mitra contradicts this statement *in toto* and thus furnishes us with his identity. He says:

Hindu Bengalis are to be found in the Nizam's Financial, Revenue and Medical Departments. In most cases they owed their first appointment to the good service rendered by their fathers to the Nizam's government. They have no interest in the "Nationlist" cry, because they prosper better under the Moslem ruler than they would have done in British territory. I have spent the best part of my life in Hyderabad and have myself practised in the Nizam's courts as a vakil (advocate), and, though a Hindu Bengali, I often had the honor of representing the Moslem government in preference to Mohamedan vakils who were my seniors at the bar by twenty years.

This passage, coming from the pen of a man who is quoted by Lord Curzon and who speaks from his lifelong experience but not from reports, is not only convincing but illuminating. The Hindu subject of the Nizam has equal rights with the Mahomedan in the military service. At the time when Sir Valentine Chirol wrote to the *Times*, a Hindu was the Prime Minister of the Nizam. Out of the four provinces, three are governed by Hindu governors. Are similar positions open to the Hindu or Moslem under British rule? None. Is this then the cause of "Indian unrest?"

Anglo-Indian Studies, as the name suggests, is a critical study and the author is not satisfied with such a superficial cause for so grave an "unrest." As an introduction to the method in which the author has treated this subject we will let him speak for himself:

"If Sir Valentine Chirol," he writes, "had taken the unrest at its commencement in the early seventies, he would have found it much easier to go to the root of the cause, because there would have been no side-issues to obscure his view. In 1875 there was no South African question, no Excise Duty on cotton goods, no Japan to eliminate, no native of India had been superseded as a Divisional Commissioner, High Court Judge, or any other big post under the government. It was ten years before the birth of the Indian National Congress, and eight before the Ilbert Bill agitation. Then, what was it that the natives of India most resented? The answer to the question is very simple, though not at all palatable to the Anglo-Indian, but as facts assert themselves at inconvenient seasons, it is well to recognise them in time. Sir Theodore Morrison, member of the council of the Secretary of State for India in his *Imperial Rule in India*, writes: "Englishmen of lesser sort say with considerable logical consistency: Let government take up a courageous attitude. We are the dominant race, and intend to remain so; all the privileges of conquest should be reserved for us." These are the men who will not allow a native to carry an umbrella over his head in their presence. . . .

So even the thoughtful Anglo-Indian writers are trying to put their fingers on the sore. But why do they not use the surgeon's knife and eradicate the sore? Is it due to national vanity to admit such a state of things? or is it simply apathy? There is no denying the fact that it is the arrogance of some Anglo-Indians that is at the root of all the trouble in India.

Every Indian will say the same.

Mr. Mitra has given such ample material for a clear insight into Anglo-Indian problems that selection rather than search is required. The subject matter, which is arranged in sixteen chapters, being varied in topic, will interest various classes of readers of both sexes. The volume is provided with a synopsis of the chapters in the table of contents and with a full index.

The Empire of India. By SIR BAMPFYLDE FULLER, of the Indian Civil Service (retired). Published by Little, Brown and Company. Boston. 1913. Pp. 385.

After the partition of Bengal, Sir Bampfylde Fuller was, on the recommendation of Lord Curzon, made the first lieutenant governor of the new province—Eastern Bengal and Assam. As the measures of repression advocated by Sir Bampfylde Fuller to suppress all agitation against this administrative blunder (as it is now recognised), were not sanctioned by Lord Morley, Sir Bampfylde resigned.

A substantial pension, ample leisure and apparently good health in spite of more than 25 years active service in India, have enabled Sir Bampfylde to compile his *Empire of India*.

Sir Bampfylde in 20 chapters covering 385 pages has, likemost of the other writers on India of his race, touched almost all phases of Indian life and character—"birds, big-game, reptiles," etc., included.

A little incident, perhaps a coincidence, speaks for itself. It is this: The copy of the *Empire of India* before me, was issued by the library to eleven persons before I received it. The interest and enthusiasm with which this book has been read by these eleven persons will be apparent when it is known that in three different places the pages remained uncut.

Now let us turn to the book itself and see if we can account for the above. In one place the author writes as follows: "Not only does this force (British troops in India) repress the internal dissensions which antipathies and jealousies are ready to provoke: it dams back the torrent of invasion which for 30 centuries at